

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01374 241518Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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O R 241434Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7784
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
UFHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 364
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1374

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SHUM, SREF, ET, SO
SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF GENOCIDE IN OGADEN UNWARRANTED

REF: A) USUN 957 (NOTAL); B) STATE 075579; C) STATE 075526

1. CONTRARY TO SOMALI ALLEGATIONS OF GENOCIDE OF SOMALI
MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN OGADEN REGION, ALL AVAILABLE
SOURCES INDICATE OPPOSITE IS TRUE AND THAT ETHIOPIAN
FORCES ARE TREATING THEIR OGADENI CITIZENS QUITE WELL.
FRENCH MILATT STATED THAT NEARLY ALL FIGHTING HAD ENDED
IN OGADEN REGION AND HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY EVIDENCE ETHIOPIANS
WERE TAKING REPRISALS AGAINST SOMALI ETHNIC POPULATION.
INDIAN EMBOFF INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED SAME VERSION OF SIT-
UATION.

2. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE PUBLISHED EXTENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHS
AND ARTICLES ABOUT PERSONS DISPLACED BY WAR RETURNING TO
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01374 241518Z

THEIR HOMES IN JIJIGA, KEBRI DAHAR AND DEGEHABUR. RELIEF
AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION (RRC) HAS REQUESTED OF INTER-
NATIONAL DONORS SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES TO CARE FOR 500,000
PERSONS FOR ONE YEAR PERIOD FOLLOWING INITIAL SURVEY OF
WAR-AFFECTED AREAS. THERE IS ALSO ONE REPORT THAT ORDERS
HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ETHIOPIAN MILITARY FORCES NOT TO TAKE
ANY REPRISALS AGAINST CIVILIANS. IN FACT, ETHIOPIANS HAVE

CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY SOMALI FORCES IN OGADEN AND HARDSHIPS CREATED FOR OGADENI PEOPLES. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT FAR MORE LIKELY THAT, ONCE POPULATION HAS RETURNED TO OGADEN TOWNS AND SITUATION HAS STABILIZED OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, EPMG WILL EMPLOY SAME MEANS IT HAS IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY (RED TERROR, INFORMANTS, ET AL) TO IDENTIFY AND WEED OUT "ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY."

3. AS BEST EMBASSY CAN DETERMINE, ETHIOPIANS HAVE FULFILLED PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT: (A) THEY WOULD NOT CROSS SOMALI FRONTIER AND (B) WOULD ONLY REASSERT THEIR AUTHORITY OVER OWN CITIZENS IN OGADEN. IN EFFORT TO "BIND WOUNDS OF OGADEN WAR", ETHIOPIANS APPEAR SERIOUSLY COMMITTED TO ENORMOUS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR HARARGHE PROVINCE, WHICH INCLUDES OGADEN AREA.
MATHERON

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